GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:303
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2017
Education to Weavers
Solanki Dr. Kirit Premjibhai

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has collaborated with the Ministry of Human Resource Development for providing education to weavers and their children through a specially designed curriculum and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether such an initiative would focus only on identified weavers and if so, the criteria adopted for identification of weavers along with the reasons for not covering all the weavers;

(c) the details of the courses identified and the funds allocated under this initiative; and

(d) the other welfare measures taken to promote the weaving industry and also sharpen the traditional skills of the weavers?

Answer

MINISTER OF TEXTILES
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *303 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 23.03.2017

(a): Development Commissioner for Handlooms under Ministry of Textiles has entered into two separate Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) on 7th August, 2016 for providing education to handloom weavers and their children through open schooling and distance learning. IGNOU offers continuing education programs and NIOS offers Secondary and Senior Secondary level education. The MoUs further provide for exploring new courses especially relevant to the aspirations of handloom weavers for career progression.

(b) & (c): All the willing handloom weavers and their children who fulfill the eligibility conditions of these institutions can avail the learning opportunities. IGNOU has identified two academic programmes, Bachelor Preparatory Programme (BPP) and Computer Literacy Programme (CLP). 6175 students have been enrolled from weavers' community in these programmes. Rs. 10 Lakhs has been sanctioned to NIOS for conducting the survey in connection with the designing of courses exclusively for handloom weavers and their children.

(d): To promote the weaving industry and sharpen the traditional skills of the weavers, 288 Block Level Clusters under National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) and Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) have been taken up during 2015-16 & 2016-17. Under Block Level Clusters various interventions such as skill up-gradation, technological up-gradation, setting up of Common Facility Centres (CFC) including Common Service Centres (CSC), engagement of textile designer-cum-marketing executive, construction of worksheds, appointment of Cluster Development Executives (CDE), etc. are taken up.

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